[Vol. 1] THE [No. 29.]

WEEKLY VISITANT.

"OURS ARE THE PLANS OF FAIR DELIGHTFUL PEACE,
"UNWARP'D BY PARTY RAGE, TO LIVE LIKE BROTHERS."

SALEM—SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 19, 1806.

A SINGULAR TALE.

We are about to indulge our readers with a very singular but a very true relation of an affair which happened some years since in one of the French provinces.

A man of fashion paid his addresses to a young lady of beauty, rank, and distinguished merit.

As there was a parity in years, in fortune, and in situation, the lady received her gallant with the accustomary condescension females seldom withhold from those whom they are taught to pronounce upon an equality with themselves.

The parents of the young lady, however, from whatever motive, disapproved of the match. The gentleman pleaded—but in vain: and finding it impossible to overcome the *aged obstinacy* of the parents, he resolved to solicit his charmer's consent to enter into the holy bands of matrimony, without any farther consultation with the parents who seemed so resolutely to persist in a denial.

Having fully explained himself on this head, the young lady, after recovering from a confusion which, ever on these occasions, is visible amongst the virgin fair, consented to become his wife: they were wedded, and the marriage kept a profound secret.

It happened, after a few years had elapsed, that the husband was obliged to leave his lovely bride, being called into a foreign country in order to adjust some family affairs which required his immediate presence. The necessity was no less urgent than disagreeable to both parties; however, they permitted their good sense to operate, and after vowing mutual affection and fidelity, parted in certain expectation of seeing each other at a time when such an alteration should take place as might afford them an opportunity of living in a manner every way becoming an happy and virtuous wedded pair.

For some time they corresponded! but the husband being obliged to cross several tempestuous seas did not receive such frequent answers to his epistles as he had reason to expect. This he attributed to the difference of climate rendering a regular correspondence altogether impracticable; and as he imagined his letters had miscarried, he resolved for the present to desist from writing; not relishing the idea of having his sentiments canvassed over by indifferent strangers, or perhaps captious enemies.

Another reason which induced him to lay aside for the present all thoughts of continuing an epistolary correspondence, was the prospect he had of shortly returning to France, where the presence of his amiable consort would infinitely exceed all ideal interviews, and make ample amends for every pang his heart had undergone.

It is now time that we should return to the lady.

As she possessed a considerable share of youth and beauty, it was not to be supposed she could long remain without a train of admirers. Her parents, who never dreamt about their daughter's previous marriage, became each day more anxious to select a person whose mental and personal endowments might, in their estimation, render him worthy their favourite daughter's hand and heart.

Several years had now rolled on, without the lady's hearing a syllable of her real husband. At last the fatal news arrived that he was now no more.

The lady was inconsolable, but she found it prudent to stifle her griefs, that she might obliterate the smallest degree of suspicion.

When she had paid every tribute consistent with reflection to the memory of her departed lord, a gentleman was proposed by her parents for her approbation, and the good old people were so prejudiced in favor of the person they had introduced, that they gave their daughter to understand their happiness depended on her compliance.

The young lady, who thought herself entirely at liberty to commit a second trespass upon Hymen, after some little hesitation consented. The nuptials were celebrated; the lady, if not happy was placid, and serenely content; the parents were delighted! the bridegroom was enraptured; and all were jocund, all were sprightly.

For four years this newly married couple lived in perfect harmony: but at length an intermitting fever seized the lady; the physicians were baffled, and she, to all appearance, paid the debt due to nature. She was buried with pomp, and every reverence shewn to her memory the custom of the country would admit of.

During her last illness, her former husband, whom we left abroad, had returned; and, after making the necessary enquiries, was informed of every circumstance we have related above.

As he was unwilling to surprise her whilst she combatted with sickness, he had employed a trusty person to make him acquainted with each particular of her case: and the instant the news of her death reached his ears, a frantic wildness seized his soul, and he resolved to receive no manner of sustenance, but to bury himself amongst the mould which lay lightly on her breast, and thus pine out the short remaining period of his existence.

Full of this resolution, he repaired, the night she was buried, to her tomb, and, after digging up the earth, discovered her coffin fetched a deep sigh, and was about to stretch his wearied limbs, when, to his consternation, astonishment, and affright, he perceived signs of life. He tore open the coffin, and found it even as he suspected. His wife was almost suffocated: he snatched her up in his arms, conveyed her to the house of a neighbouring friend, had her put into a warm bed, and in a few weeks she was perfectly restored to life and health.

As she had a real affection for her first husband, she made no scruple of choosing him for her companion; but as the affair soon made a prodigious noise throughout the country, the second husband, who also doated on her to distraction, no sooner was informed of the particulars, than he attempted to force her to live with him; the prior claimant as resolutely persisted in keeping her to himself. In short, a law suit was commenced: the most learned advocates in France were employed: a redundancy of erudition was displayed, and, after being litigated for a considerable length of time, a solemn decision was given in favour of the gentleman who had first married her.

This story has so much the air of fable and romance, that to leave an impression of its truth on the minds of our readers, we shall inform them, that the French lawyers have selected all the famous trials, with the decisions which have been given in their courts for a series of years.

This work, which is contained in several folio volumes, is entitled, "Les Cause Celebres." The above very extraodinary relation is recited therein, together with all the subtile and ingenious arguments used by the opposite advocates for the different husbands. So that there can be little doubt of the truth of a narrative so extremely well authenticated.

::::::::::::::::

MIRANDA's COUNTRY.

The following observations and remarks on the situation, climate, &c. of the ports of La Guayra and the city of Carraccas, in Spanish South America (furnished by a gentlman lately returned from a voyage to that country) cannot fail to interest every description of readers. [*New-York paper.*

La Guayra is the principal sea port of the Carraccas, and is situated on

the foot of an extensive chain of lofty mountains, running immediately along the coast. It lies in 10, 37, lat. and in about 67, W. long. from the meridian of Greenwich. The high mountain that hangs almost over the town is called the saddle of Carraccas, and is 9,230 Spanish feet high. It has been seen at the distance of 25 leagues at sea.

The thermometer is seldom as low as 75, and is generally from 80 to 85, throughout the year, and especially in the summer months, when it is very calm.

The atmosphere is dry: notwithstanding the heat that prevails, its inhabitants are remarkably healthy. Putrid and malignant fevers do not make their appearance here as frequently as in the West-India islands; and it is a circumstance worthy of particular notice, that that class of people, who are devoted to the hardest labour and greatest exposures, is wonderfully strong and robust. The town and its environs contain abont 12,000 inhabitants.

City of Carraccas.—This is the capital and seat of government of the province of the same name; and is perhaps one of the finest situations in the world It stands in a delightful valley immediately over which La Guayra is situated, and is distant from that place probably not more than 10 leagues in a direct line South. The road to it over the mountains is 15 leagues: the elevation of this valley above the level of the sea is near 4000 feet. The climate is very even, mild, and temperate, the thermometer seldom rising higher than 78, and never falls below 58 and 68. It is generally about 72 Fahrenheit. The atmosphere is rather humid; its inhabitants enjoy exceeding good health.

There are several small rivers near the city, where waters are found to be wholesome and very salutary for bathing. Nearly all the European tropical fruits and vegetables are produced here, and even Indian corn and wheat might be cultivated in sufficient quantities to supply its inhabitants or even all the West-India islands. One may wear a broadcloth cloak all the year round in this delightful valley, without inconvenience. and it very properly is denominated the Montpelier of the new world. The city and its environs contain about 45,000 inhabitants.

The province of Carractas extends from the river Oronocco to the lake of Maraycaibo, which is near 800 miles of a sea-coast.

MORAL.

FROM THE PORT FOLIO.

THF LAY PREACHER.

"*And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, drink, and I will give thy camels drink also.*"

From my attachment to simplicity in writing, I read Sterne more attentively than Stackhouse, and prefer a story in Genesis to a volume of Gibbon. It appears to me, notwithstanding the sarcasms of Voltaire, and other French infidels, that mode of writing, which finds the way to the heart, was never more successfully atchieved, than by the orientals. The other evening, as I was turning over, agreeably to my usual practice, the passages of scripture, I dwelt with undescribable pleasure, upon certain passages in the life of the patriarch Abraham. I had passed the afternoon in what is called modish company, and yet could not avoid remarking that the extreme selfishness of men and women of the *world*, led them, even at a moment when they assembled for ostentatious civility, to behave discourteously. If such rudeness, I murmured to myself, can be tolerated in a refined age, let me view the behaviour of those of old time, before dancing masters were discovered, and when message cards were not sent by one patriarch's lady to another. I

found, as I expected, that even herdmen and shepherds had as much genuine politeness as lord Chesterfield, and that a country maiden, the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, could behave with as much propriety, as though she had been educated in a boarding school. The story of this pastoral girl's conduct I wish to tell at large, and that the delicacy of fashionable readers would allow me, on this occasion, so much pedantary as to quote the original. But as a whole chapter in Genesis might appear too long, and disproportionate for a short sermon, I will attempt to narrate in my own words.

Abraham, a most affectionate parent, perceived that his life declined, and zealous with the anxiety of old age, for an establishment for Isaac, intreats a confidential steward of the household, that he would suffer the inexperienced heart of his son to be captivated by the Canaanitish beauties. At the earnest request of the Patriarch, the servant binds himself to solicit for Isaac, a wife of his own rank, religion, and country. After sanctioning this promise, by one of the most tremendous oaths among the Jewish usages, he harnesses his camels and departs for Mesopotamia. On his arrival at the suburbs of Nahor, a city of that country, fatigued with a tedious journey, and tender of his drudging camels, he makes them kneel by a well of water, to take their necessary refreshment. In this weary moment, Rebekah appears: and the first accent that fell from the parched tongue of the traveller were to solicit a little water from the pitcher, which she carried, "And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, drink, and I will give thy camels drink also."

Let us now gaze, earnestly, at these simple, yet beautiful features.

The female, whose courtesy is thus recorded, was a woman of some distinction, in those pastoral times. Her father was of a stock abundantly respectable, for he was allied to Abraham, and her brother was the opulent Laban, whose cattle strayed on a thousand hills. Engaged in domestic duty, she meets a stranger, in the garb, probably of a hireling, for he is called, in the text, 'servant,' begrimed with dust having no claim to her favour. She is asked for water, which she cheerfully gives, and the careless reader will not be aware of the extent of the obligation, if he have not surveyed a map of Palestine, and adverted to the sandiness and thirst of the soil. In that arid region, a brook was a more joyous sight to a panting shepherd, than a bumper to the votary of wine; the invaluable well spring, eagerly sought, and obstinately contended for, by different tribes, was from the nature of the earth, at such a distance below the surface that to obtain water, was a work of both toil and time. But forgetting her home, forgetting herself, 'and disdaining little delicacies,' she thinks only of the sufferings of the way-faring stranger; and with that '*kind charity*' which the apostle emphasizes, with that disinterested civility, beyond the court of Versailles, the tedious descent of the well she repeatedly tries, and the cooling pitcher imparts, not only to the man, but even to his unpetitioning beasts. 'Drink,' says the generous girl, and trust me, I can feel likewise for your burdened companions, for 'I will give the camels drink also.' This was benevolence, such as is not generally found. It was eminently disinterested, prompt, and diffusive.—It was distinguished; for the tongue which she cooled was not that of a youthful gallant trolling the oily phrases of flattery. He, who drained the pitcher, which the assiduity of Rebekah filled, was an old man, a servant, and a stranger. It was prompt; for she 'hasted,'

and she 'ran' to do good, and drew water for 'all the camels,' though the troop consisted of ten. It was diffusive; for they were minutely regarded no less than their proprietor.

I warmly wish that the manners of many, who deem themselves polished, were at the present day as excellent at those of this primitive well bred woman. Frequenting no assemblies, but those of the next green, or meadow! receiving no lessons of good breeding but those which her own warm heart dictated; we find her deportment graceful, though she never paid a dancing master: we find her a maid of honor, though she never saw a court!—True politeness, unlike that of the mode, consists in actually rendering little services to our neighbor, rather than in the ostentatious promise of great ones. Indifferent to its own ease, it thinks much of another's, discerns the latent wish, and supercedes the necessity of asking favors, by seasonably bestowing them.

SELECTED POETRY.

FROM LORD STRANGFORD'S TRANSLATION OF CAMOENS.

CANZONET.

"A DAMA QUE JURAVA PELOS SEUS OLHOS."

THE LADY WHO SWORE BY HER EYES.

When the girl of my heart is on perjury bent,
The sweetest of oaths hide the falsest intent,
And Suspicion abash'd, from her compnny flies,
When she smiles like an angel—and swears by her eyes.

For in them such magic, she knows is display'd,
That a tear can convince, and a look can persuade;
And she thinks that I dare not, or cannot, refuse
To believe on their credit whate'er she may choose.

But I've learn'd from the painful experience of youth,
That vehement oaths never constitute truth;
And I've studied those treacherous eyes, and I find
They are mutable signs of a mutable mind!

Then, dear one, I'd rather, thrice rather believe
Whate'er you assert, even though to deceive,
Than that you "by your eyes" should so wickedly swear,
And sin against heaven—for heaven is there!

CANZONET.

Since in this dreary vale of tears
No certainty but death appears,
Why should we waste our vernal years
In hoarding useless treasure?

No—let the young and ardent mind
Become the friend of human kind,
And in the generous service find
A source of purer pleasure!

Better to live despis'd and poor,
Than Guilt's eternal stings endure ;
The future smile of God shall cure
The wound of earthly woes,

Vain world ! did we but rightly feel
What ills thy treacherous charms conceal,
How would we long from thee to steal
To Death—and sweet repose !

SONNET.

Lives there a wretch, who would profanely dare
On Love bestow a tyrant's barbarous name,
And foe to every soft delight, proclaim
His service, slavery ; its wages, care ?
For ever may he prove it so, nor e'er
Feel the dear transports of that generous flame ;
For him nor maiden smile, nor melting dame
The silent couch of midnight bliss prepare !
For much he wrongs the gentlest, best of pow'rs,
Whose very pangs can charm, and torments please,
Whom long I've known, and in whose angriest hours
Such rapture found, as would I not forego,
No—not forego, for all the dead, cold ease
Which dull Indifference could e'er bestow !

MISCELLANEOUS.

LOVE AND CONSTANCY. AN ANECDOTE.

A Neapolitan being at work in a field bordering on the sea-shore, his wife, who was at some distance from him, was seized by the Corsairs of Tunis, and carried on board their vessel.

The Neapolitan threw himself into the sea, swam to the ship, and intreated the captain to take him in.

The good man well knew he would be sold as a slave, and the consequent misery and hardship he should undergo ; but love for the object who had hitherto shared in his labours, and enjoyed with him the fruits of his industry, predominated over all other sensations. While the Turks were astonished at his temerity, he continued supplicating to be taken on board ; he told them, that the woman they had taken from the field was his wife : "we have," continued he, "long shared happines, and we can bear misery together, grant us only the consolation of being sold to the same master is all I ask ; deny me that, and one grave will, I trust, soon contain us."

The Turks, admiring affection, on their return, told it to the king of Tunis, who being pleased with this singular instance of conjugal fidelity, not only gave them their liberty, but each a place in the palace.

GRAMMAR.

A lady and gentleman were conversing upon the science of GRAMMAR—'Pray, madam, (said the gentleman) what part of speech is a KISS ?'—'Aye, what is it ?' replied the lady. 'A substantive, I believe, madam.'—'Is it a noun proper or common ?' interrogated the lady.—'*Proper*, madam.'—'No, (rejoined she) I think it is both *proper* and *common*.' The reader may guess what followed.

KNOWLEDGE.

Useful knowledge is an inestimable treasure, of the value of which few persons are sufficiently apprized. The acquisition of it is an employment that does honor to our nature: its singular importance, both to our present and future felicity, must be acknowledged by every one who has reflected on the subject with any tolerable degree of attention; its admirable tendency to brace and strengthen the mind, to fortify us against the mazes of error and superstition, and prepare us for the various scenes through which we are to pass, must surely render it an object worthy our intensest application and most assiduous endeavors.

LOVE.

What shall the heart's best wish supply,
Its fondest ardours move?
Not wealth the potent charm shall buy,
Nor ought that wakes ambition's sigh,—
'Tis love—and nought but love!

Then listen maid, thine ear incline,
Nor scorn my constant sigh;
Proud fame and splendor I resign,
Nor kneel at vain ambition's shrine;
Thy smile shall all supply.

EPIGRAM.

The following epigram was occasioned by Miss H's elopement from Oxford with her footman at the time a gentleman, called by the wits of the University Dr. Toe, from his peculiarity of walking, was paying his addresses to her.

'Twixt footman John and Dr. Toe
A rivalship befel,
Which should be the happy beau,
And bear away the belle.

The footman gained the lady's heart,
And who can blame her?—No man!
The *whole* prevailed against *its part*,
'Twas *Foot*-man versus *Toe*-man.

ENVY.

The fever of envy will disorder the finest vision, and the chillness of personal dislike will freeze the faculties into a fatal torpor. *D'Israeli.*

A southern editor, mentioning the ravages of the caterpillars, observes, "they have destroyed every *green* thing, *white* clover excepted."

WEEKLY JOURNAL.

"*To note the passing tidings of the times.*"

SALEM, JULY 12—19, 1806.

14. A Charleston paper of the 31st of May announces, that Abraham O. Valentine, formerly of the city of New-York, who had been sentenced to death for *Negro-stealing*, was taken from prison to the place of execution, and there received the Governor's pardon. In the same paper are offered for sale publicly, no less than 1711 HUMAN BEINGS, *stolen* from Africa; and yet no effort is made to bring to justice the detestable *thieves* who dragged them from their *native homes!* [*New-York paper.*

The Trafalgar garters are much worn by the English belles—the motto is well known—"*England expects every man to do his duty.*" [*London paper.*

15. A kind of influenza, which spares no one, at present prevails in Spain,

but it is seldom fatal. At Barcelona, where this malady commenced, 28,300 persons were ill of it at once.

We learn from Augusta, Maine, that a Mr. James Purinton, who had lately moved into that town, on the 7th inst. murdered his wife and six children. Two other children were so injured that their lives are despaired of. Mr. Purinton also put an end to his own existence.

16. The last accounts from the fortress of Gaeta state, that the gallant Prince of Hesse Philipstat, who is a nephew of the great Queen of Naples, was, with his garrison, in high spirits; and appeared determined to make the fame of Gaeta as illustrious in history as that of Gibraltar.

Almost all the maritime powers of Europe are, or most shortly will be, at war. Sweden is at war with Prussia, and has blockaded the Prussian ports in the Baltic. Russia is the ally of Sweden and must assist her in the war.—Denmark and Portugal are then the only European maritime powers that remain neutral.

17. The Charleston Courier of July 1, announces the death of that enterprizing traveller, Mungo Park. He was on his second tour into the interior of Africa, and had penetrated as far as Sego, about 1500 miles from Goree. The King of this place, after carrying him into every part of the city, which is walled in and considered the largest in Africa, and shewing him every curiosity which it afforded, had cruelly and brutally murdered him and his attendants.

18. On Friday, (says a New-York paper of Tuesday last) the day on which John Banks was executed, a Spaniard stabbed a woman in Warren street, and killed her almost instantly—Captain Salter fell from the second story of a house in South street, and was killed on the spot—A man killed his wife, by beating her with a pail—And a person, whose name we have not learnt, hung himself.

Under the head of Washington, July 9, we find the following article:—We hear, that on the 3rd inst. the Stone Church at Port Tobacco, was blown down by the most violent wind ever experienced at that place. Hundreds of large trees were also levelled to the ground—and several houses utterly destroyed. A canoe, with a man fishing, was taken up out of the water, and carried upwards of a hundred yards, without hurting the man, to the plantation of a gentleman.

19. We hear from Beverly, that at the time we had the shower on Thursday, a violent tornado was experienced in that place—Eight or ten buildings are said to have been blown to pieces—the Rev. Mr. Abbot's Meeting-House unroofed—several plank blown off the bridge—trees torn up by the roots, &c.

MARRIED,

In this town, Mr. John Ostrom, to Mrs. Elizabeth Dunbevin. Mr. Charles Vanderford, to Miss Hannah Peirce.

DIED,

In this town, Mr. Henry Webb, aged 35, son of Mr. John Webb.

Extracts from Dr. Priestley's Catechism: for the use of Schools.
SIXTH SALEM EDITION.
May be had at the Visitant Office—*Price* 6 *cents.*

PUBLISHED BY HAVEN POOL.
Directly west of the Tower of Dr. Prince's Meeting-House.
(Price $2 per annum—to be paid half yearly, in advance.)
COMMUNICATIONS THANKFULLY RECEIVED.
Blanks, Cards, Advertisements, Shopbills, &c. printed at short notice.